

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3346

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

UNCLAS VANCOUVER 0189

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CA, OVIP (TRUDEAU, PIERRE)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: TRUDEAU VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: OTTAWA 610

1. "TRUDEAU SIGNS CARTER TO ELECTION TEAM" IS FROMT-PAGE HEADLINE OF FEBRUARY 24 VANCOUVER SUN. ACCOMPANYING REPORT BY SUN WASHINGTON BUREAU CORRESPONDENT FRANK RUTTER STATES THAT PM TRUDEAU HAS REASON TO BE WELL PLEASED WITH HIMSELF OVER THE WASHINGTON VISIT AND "HE EVEN GOT PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER TO CAMPAIGN WITH HIM FOR THE NEXT CANADIAN ELECTION." RUTTER CLAIMS THERE IS NOW PERIPHERAL SPECULATION THAT AN ELECTION MAY BE CALLED "SOONER RATHER THAN LATER...BECAUSE TRUDEAU NOW HAS AN ISSUE ON WHICH HE CAN CAPITALIZE."
2. ACCORDING TO RUTTER, PM S "GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT" WAS THE ATTENTION SHOWERED ON HIM AS THE "PRESERVER OF CANADIAN UNITY." "IF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WERE IN THE BUSINESS OF HELPING OUT FOREIGN LEADERS (AS SOME ALLEGE), TRUDEAU WOULD BE A GOOD INVESTMENT."
3. RUTTER ALSO WRITES THAT ALTHOUGH THE PRESIDENT VOWED HE WOULD MAKE NO PUBLIC OR EVEN PRIVATE MOVE TO INTERFERE IN THE DOMESTIC CANADIAN DEBATE ON CONFEDERATION, "IN FACT HE HAS ALREADY DONE SO BY EXPRESSING THE U.S. CONCERN AND BY HIS PERSONAL PREFERENCE FOR ONE CANADA." RUTTER SAYS, HOWEVER, THAT PRESIDENT

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CARTER SHOULD BE EXCUSED FOR THIS BECAUSE "AFTER ALL, IT WAS TRUDEAU WHO INJECTED QUEBEC INTO RELATIONS WITH THE U.S." RUTTER FURTHER CLAIMS THAT TRUDEAU PERSONALLY PLANTED THE SENSATIONAL ANALOGY BETWEEN SEPARATISM AND THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS ON THE PAGES OF THE NEW YORK TIMES SO THAT HE COULD DRAMATIZE HIS PRESS CONFERENCE AND GUARANTEE A HEADLINE IN EVERY CANADIAN NEWSPAPER. (NOTE: FEBRUARY 23 VANCOUVER SUN HEADLINE

READ "PM COMPARES SEPARATION TO CUBAN CRISIS".)

4. PRESS CLIPPINGS BEING MAILED TO EMBASSY AND EUR/CAN.

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